

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held March 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ann Bolen, Vice President

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$5,593.56
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5,593.56
Net Income	\$1,028.67

A detailed financial statement is available on request of John Greene, President.

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder spoke and noted crime is way down in our area. There were "only" 10 incidents for the month and that is extremely low. All these were property crimes.

There will be a Saint Patrick's Day parade next Saturday morning and it will be well-attended and -patrolled.

In response to a question, the homicide last month on 8th Bay is still under investigation and no arrests have been made. Officer Snyder states this is not a random crime.

As for the homicide at 7900 Shore Drive, the suspect turned himself in at the police station.

Guest Speaker: Lee Rosenberg, Environmental Services Manager, City of Norfolk

Mr. Rosenberg's office handles bulk head building, piers, silt fences and shoreline protection. He showed a map of the area as he detailed the sand/shore replenishment project that will begin March 2015. The replenishment will begin by the Little Creek Base and continue to Willoughby. The project is a combined project with the Federal Government and is being funded with money that was set aside due to Hurricane Sandy. The City has replaced sand after every major storm. This replenishment will get its sand from Thimble Shoals. Previous replacements cost \$21 million and the sand came from dredging Pretty Lake.

In response to a question regarding sea grasses, the City used to have citizens help plant sea grass in February/March. They now contract the job out as the contractors use augers to dig the holes for planting in a deeper and more efficient manner. There are half-day classes for citizens to learn about dune planting in the Fall. Contact the City for time and date.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jim Boohaker, Director of Development, East Beach Company

Mr. Boohaker requested to speak to the membership concerning Phase 7 of the East Beach Development. As all can see, there is orange tape demarking the areas that will soon be under construction. The last phase of the construction is designed to be a combination of residential and commercial units; however,

there are no commercial commitments at this point. The housing will be smaller units of 1200-1500 square feet, which Mr. Boohaker feels is perfect for “downsizers.”

A major change in this area is the removal of the public parking lot next to *Ships Cabin*. The property is owned by the East Beach Corporation and will be used for future development. The City is looking for ways to accommodate the 75 - 100 cars that use the lot for weekend access to the beach.

An East Beach resident was concerned about pervious and impervious materials being used in the new construction. Mr. Boohaker described how they plan to develop the area and the materials being used. In answer to another question, he stated they would *not* build shops and leave them empty in hopes of getting businesses to come. Rather, they will leave an empty “pad-ready” site for retailers.

New Business

The Community Garden works under the guidance and direction of Deborah Lutz, who commented, “This is a wonderful part of our area and we would love more volunteers.” Everyone is encouraged to adopt a garden box; come to the Spring Clean-Up and Planting April 26; the Strawberry Festival, May 31; the Watermelon Festival on July 12th; and to please look for all the Fall events that are planned.

Coach Dwight has postponed his boot camp for students to the Fall and will have it coincide with the opening of school. He will need volunteers and financial assistance at that time.

The EOV Coordinating Committee met Feb. 25th. Ann Bolen reported that there is little to no hope for a TIF/BID to help finance needed street or storm water infrastructure repairs as they would provide inadequate revenue. Alternatively, John Keifer, D/Public Works, is developing another approach and Tommy Smigiel and Barclay Wynn asked him to keep them apprised on any other possible ways to get our infrastructure repaired.

Additionally, there appears to be no support for a Home-a-Rama adjacent to Bay Oaks Park because of inadequate infrasture. Tommy and Barclay Wynn are working on ways to promote development of the area.

Tommy Smigiel is also working with NRHA to buy blighted Ocean View properties. They have some funds they plan to spend strategically.

Ann reported the Mayor’s address on Feb. 21st focused heavily on downtown development projects, though the new outlet mall on Northampton Blvd was highlighted. Norfolk was named an All American City and that is a major honor. There is a proposed committee on poverty and Rodney Hammonds has been asked to join it.

Old Business

The Codes Committee filed 10 complaints with Norfolk Cares this week. The good news is that 7 property owners fixed their problems before the Committee had to report them. Amanda Skupin and committee are doing an amazing job. See Amanda if you can help.

Ann Bolen reported that the Ocean View area is a hot market for building permits being issued. There are 48 lots around Bay Oaks Park available.

The Norfolk "Green Reader" Program is sponsored by the public schools and libraries using volunteers to read to elementary aged children (up to 13 years old). They need more volunteers. Check EOVC website and Norfolk.gov websites for more information.

Our next meeting will be April 3rd at the East Ocean View Recreation Center at 7PM. Watch the website to see who will be our guest speaker.

A motion was made, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary